

Claims

- [c1] 1. An improved needle guiding apparatus for use with a medical imaging transceiver assembly, the needle guiding apparatus comprising:
a sheath having an opening configured at a top end for receiving a medical imaging transceiver;
said sheath not having said medical imaging transceiver disposed therein;
matter, attached to an exterior portion of said sheath at a location on said sheath other than said top end, configured and positioned to assist in at least indirectly guiding a needle with respect to said medical imaging transceiver when said medical imaging transceiver is later disposed within said sheath.
- [c2] 2. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive on an interior surface of said sheath.
- [c3] 3. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 1 wherein said matter is an adapter configured for cooperation with a needle guide.
- [c4] 4. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 1 wherein said matter is a needle guide.
- [c5] 5. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:
a temporary adhesive cover disposed over said adhesive; and,
means for removal of the temporary adhesive cover.
- [c6] 6. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 5 further comprising an adapter configured for cooperation with a needle guide.
- [c7] 7. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a needle guide coupled to said sheath.
- [c8] 8. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 7 further comprising an ultrasonic weld disposed between and bonding said sheath with said needle guide.
- [c9] 9. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 6 further comprising an adhesive disposed between and bonding said adapter and said sheath.
- [c10] 10. A needle guiding apparatus of claim 6 further comprising tape disposed between and bonding said adapter and said sheath.

- [c11] 11.A needle guiding apparatus of claim 4 wherein said needle guide has a mating structure thereon configured for mechanically coupling with mounting structure on said medical imaging transceiver.
- [c12] 12.A needle guiding apparatus of claim 11 wherein mounting structure is a portion of a mounting bracket configured for mounting on said medical imaging transceiver.
- [c13] 13.A method of coupling a needle guide to a medical imaging transceiver comprising the steps of:
providing a medical imaging transceiver;
providing a sheath with matter disposed thereon, on an external surface;
inserting said medical imaging transceiver into said sheath;
coupling said sheath with said medical imaging transceiver; and,
using said matter to assist in guiding a needle with respect to said medical imaging transceiver.
- [c14] 14.A method of claim 13 wherein said step of using said matter further comprises the step of: coupling a needle guide to an adapter affixed to an exterior of said sheath.
- [c15] 15.A method of claim 13 wherein said step of coupling said sheath further comprises pressing an adhesive affixed to said sheath onto said medical imaging transceiver.
- [c16] 16.A method of claim 15 wherein said step of pressing an adhesive is preceded by a step of removing a temporary adhesive cover from inside said sheath by pulling an elongated member extending through a top opening in said sheath.
- [c17] 17.A method of claim 16 wherein said step of using said matter further comprises the step of coupling a needle guide to an adapter affixed to an exterior of said sheath.
- [c18] 18.A method of claim 13 wherein said step of coupling said sheath further comprises the step of mating a portion of said matter with a portion of structure on said medical imaging transceiver.

[c19]

19.A medical imaging system comprising:
a sterile sheath having a first end with an opening therein for receiving therethrough a medical imaging transceiver;
said sterile sheath having a closed second end;
an adhesive material, disposed at a first location of and on an inside surface of said sterile sheath;
a cover, configured to inhibit attachment of said adhesive material to said medical imaging transceiver, while said medical imaging transceiver is being inserted into said sterile sheath;
an elongated pull disposed inside said sterile sheath and attached to said cover, said elongated pull being configured to facilitate removal of said cover from said adhesive while said medical imaging transceiver is disposed in said sterile sheath;
an adapter disposed at said first location and coupled to an exterior surface of said sterile sheath;
an ultrasonic weld disposed between and coupling said adapter with said exterior surface of said sterile sheath;
a needle guide coupled to said adapter;
said needle guide having a first male/female component of a mechanical mating assembly; and,
said adapter having a second male/female component which mates with said first male/female component when said needle guide is engaged with said adapter.

[c20]

20.A medical imaging system of claim 19 further comprising an ultrasound transducer.